(b) The latest Union Budget (2004-05) has underlined enhancing investment - both public and private - in industry, as a thrust area, and has reiterated the commitment to remove inadequacies in infrastructural facilities. Specific measures aiming to enhance investment like increasing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) ceiling in civil aviation, and setting up an Investment Commission for inviting domestic and foreign businesses to invest in India, have already been taken.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Grain export assistance

1180. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has given an "in-principle' nod for Rs. 300 crores grain export assistance for the current fiscal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry's clearance has been obtained for giving assistance to traders at the rate of Rs. 900 a tonne for wheat and rice exports; and

(c) if so, whether these exports are likely to affect the country's food security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) A proposal in this regard received from Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been considered by the Committee on Non-Plan Expenditure and is awaiting the decision of the Government.

Tax refund

†1181. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to deposit the tax refund in many cities of the country directly into the bank accounts of the tax-payers instead of refunding the same through cheque; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.